

Composite of Spanish news agency *EFE* dispatch published in *Frontera* on 03/26/2005 and articles appearing in *Diario del Sur* (San Juan del Pasto, Colombia) and *El País* (Cali, Colombia) on 03/26/2005, *El Tiempo* (Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia) on 03/25/2005 and 03/30/2005, and Colombian Navy news release of 03/26/2005

Colombian Traffickers Were Working on Submarine



On Thursday March 24th a Colombian military operation dubbed "Ciclón" (Cyclone) involving Colombian Coast Guard units, Urban Special Forces Group 2, the A.R.C. Buenaventura, and Colombian Marine Corps Fluvial Assault Battalion 1 that was conducted in coordination with the Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad / DAS (F.B.I. equivalent) located and destroyed a rudimentary shipbuilding facility that was apparently being used by narcotraffickers belonging to the Cali Cartel to

build submarines and river craft. The facility was located in a remote mangrove swamp area of the Estero Mariano delta in the Municipality of Salahonda located approximately one hour by boat from the port of Tumaco in the Department of Nariño, which is adjacent to the border with Ecuador.



The operation also resulted in the seizure of two other vessels (identified in the press as recently completed "go fast boats", but called partially finished riverine craft in the Colombian navy communiqué), a partially built submarine made of wood and fiberglass, two radio communication sets, two 12-gauge shotguns and five rounds of ammunition. The submarine had a beam of 6 meters and was 30 meters long. Most of its interior space was designed as a cargo area rather than machinery space. Motors, which were absent from the facility, had yet to be installed. Estimates of the submarine's cargo carrying capacity ranged from three to fourteen tons. Authorities believe it was designed to operate at a depth of twenty meters and would have a two-man crew. Its range was apparently quite limited, restricting its use to the ferrying of drugs to "go fast boats" or mother ships already at sea off the isolated coast.

The operation was the final phase of an investigation lasting more than three months.